

Name _____



Awakening America

In the 1700s, life in the American colonies was changing. Towns and cities were growing, and people were focused on trade and farming. However, many colonists felt that religion had become less important in their daily lives. This led to a movement called the Great Awakening, which brought new religious ideas and energy to the colonies.

A New Way of Worship

The Great Awakening was a religious revival that spread through the colonies during the 1730s and 1740s. Preachers like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield gave powerful sermons, telling people that they needed to feel their faith, not just follow religious rules. Instead of only listening to ministers in churches, people gathered in fields and meeting halls to hear these exciting new messages.

Impact on Religion

Before the Great Awakening, churches were often strict, and people were expected to attend long services without much emotion. But the Great Awakening encouraged personal connections with God and made church services lively and emotional. New religious groups, such as the Methodists and Baptists, became popular, and more people started choosing their own churches instead of following traditions.

Impact on Society

The Great Awakening also had a big effect on colonial society. It helped spread the idea of equality because preachers said that all people were equal in God's eyes. This belief made people question authority, including church leaders and even the British government. Some historians believe that the Great Awakening helped inspire ideas of independence, leading to the American Revolution years later.

A Lasting Effect

The Great Awakening changed the way people thought about religion and leadership. It encouraged freedom of thought and helped people believe that they had the right to make their own choices. Today, we can still see its influence in the way people express their faith and stand up for their beliefs.

